

[In these minutes: Web site for interdisciplinary classes, interdisciplinary studies survey, letter to MetroTransit]

## **ACADEMIC HEALTH CENTER STUDENT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (AHC SCC) MINUTES**

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2003**

**5:00 - 6:00 p.m.**

**488 CHILD REHAB CENTER**

[These minutes reflect discussion and debate at a meeting of a committee of the University of Minnesota Senate or Twin Cities Campus Assembly; none of the comments, conclusions, or actions reported in these minutes represent the view of, nor are they binding on the Senate or Assembly, the Administration, or the Board of Regents.]

### **PRESENT:**

Kim Canfield, Chair (Public Health), Alisa Madson (Dentistry), Jeremy Olsen (UMD School of Medicine), David Renstrom (Pharmacy), Kelly Schneider (Mortuary Science), Leah Van Gorp (Nursing).

**REGRETS:** Leslie Carranza (Medical School – 2<sup>nd</sup> Year), Angela Feneis (Occupational Therapy), Wesley Kurszewski (Physical Therapy), Tori-Thuy Le (Dental Hygiene), Ryann Signorelli (Veterinary Medicine), Mark Wiisanen (Medical School – 3<sup>rd</sup> Year), Christopher Zaun (Medical Technology).

### **1. JANUARY MEETING DATE**

Kim Canfield proposed that the January meeting date be pushed back one week to January 21. Without any disagreement, the change was approved. All members will be informed via email.

### **2. AHC WEB SITE FOR INTERDISCIPLINARY CLASSES**

Kim Canfield said that Barbara Brandt has offered the committee web space from her office to set-up a site for courses that students feel are interdisciplinary. Faculty may also submit courses, but they would need to be reviewed by students first before they were listed on the site. This site would offer one place for students to look for interdisciplinary courses in the AHC. The committee agreed that a site should be created, so Kim Canfield said that she would work with Barbara Brandt and update the committee in January.

### **3. AHC INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES SURVEY**

Kim Canfield noted that earlier in the year the committee had proposed sending a 10-15 question survey to students in the AHC on a single topic. Since interdisciplinary studies is a hot topic, she would like the committee to consider creating a survey and writing the questions. Barbara Brandt's office would then administer it to all AHC students and analyze the results. Besides questions on the topic, students would also respond to a few basic demographic questions. The survey would be emailed to students and the results would be compiled electronically.

Q: Do email surveys have a high compliance rate?

A: A 30 percent response rate is standard, although some surveys within the AHC have a 50-60 percent response rate.

Kim Canfield continued that survey results would give the committee, Barbara Brandt, and other programs a baseline for further actions and would raise awareness among students. If the response rate was high enough, the committee could consider doing one per year.

A member suggested that scantron sheets be distributed in smaller programs by instructors, thereby assuring a close to 100 percent response rate.

Kim Canfield said that this might be possible. She then raised the question of whether IRB approval would be needed for this survey. She will follow-up on the question with Barbara Brandt. She then noted that this survey would be a tangible goal for this year, but would require a fast timeline to complete. Some schools already have surveys of this type. She suggested distributing these existing survey tools in January, and members bringing final comments to the February meeting. After that time, the survey could be sent, and the committee would see results as they come in during the spring.

Hearing no opposition, Kim Canfield said that she would have the other surveys for members in January.

#### **4. LETTER TO METROTRANSIT**

Kim Canfield stated that the issue of final express bus times was brought up earlier in the year in regards to students who have clinicals until 4:30 pm, and do not finish clean-up until 5 pm, thereby missing the last express bus time. MetroTransit felt that it would not be worth their time to attend a meeting until they had a better idea of what routes would be impacted.

She then distributed a 52 bus schedule, noting that several lines have their last express bus leaving by 4:40 or earlier. She suggested sending a letter signed by all committee members and Barbara Brandt, and copied to Dr. Cerra, to MetroTransit asking for changes to be made or for them to meet with the committee to explain why changes could not be made.

A member suggested that positives be included in the letter as well, such as how the company has worked to put more buses on routes that have large numbers of passengers.

Kim Canfield said that she would draft a letter and send it to everyone by email. She asked that members track their changes and send it back to her. Once finalized, a copy of the letter will be in Barbara Brandt's office, and all members will need to stop by and sign it. She would like the letter to be sent before Christmas so that changes might take place during spring semester. Members agreed with sending a letter.

#### **5. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES**

Kim Canfield said that a recent meeting with Barbara Brandt interest was expressed in having the committee look at interdisciplinary and cultural studies since these topics are important to students but have many politics surrounding them. Barbara also said that 30 years ago the AHC had a block of time devoted to interdisciplinary studies, but that it was slowly eroded by other interests. Because of the history, reinstating this time might be easier. Spring semester, Kim Canfield proposed sending a letter to the deans asking that the time be reinstated.

Regarding relations with CHIP, its president, Heather Nelson, is working with Kim Canfield to identify a representative from each group. These representatives will attend one meeting per semester of each other's group to keep both groups informed of activities.

Kim Canfield then turned to the committee itself, noting that the increased size might prompt some changes to be made. In spring, she would like to examine roles and responsibilities of members, as well as how members are appointed/elected. For the committee's functioning, she still envisions monthly meetings for broad topics, but small working committees might also be created. These working committees would have a few members and would work on a focused topic, such as drafting a letter, that would be completed in two to three short meetings. Working group items would then return to the full committee for final approval.

In closing Kim Canfield thanked Kelly Schneider for her service over the last year and wished her well after graduation. Kelly noted that a replacement has not been found yet, but she will try to recruit again before she leaves next week.

With no other business, Kim Canfield thanked the members for attending and adjourned the meeting.

Becky Hippert  
University Senate